Joseph Wroe





Rank: - Private

Number: - 43700

Regiment: - Machine Gun Corps (Formerly 4790 KOYLI) 202nd Coy.

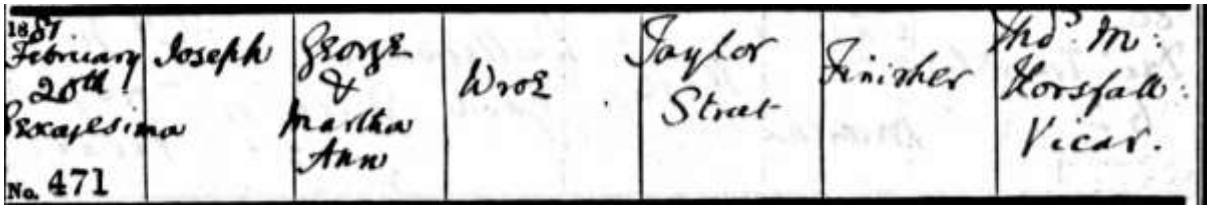
Died of Wounds, Wounded 24 Apr 1917 whilst conveying message by bicycle: - 25/04/1917 Age: 36 years

Cemetery: - Bethune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France V1.D.70

Batley News, 12 May 1917 (photo)

Family Details

Joseph was born in 1881 in Batley the son of George and Martha Ann Wroe nee Squire who had married on the 10th July 1880 at St. Thomas's Church Batley. He was baptised at St. Thomas s Church on 20th February 1881.

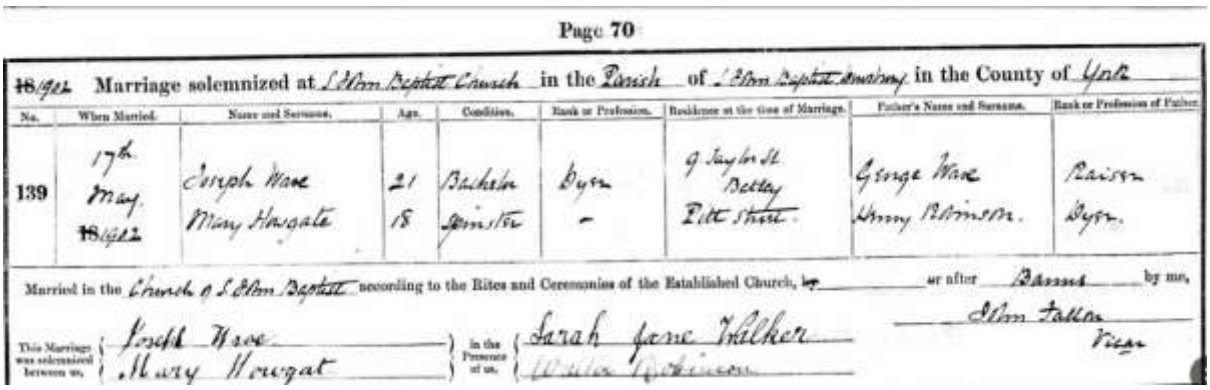


1881 February 20th Sexagesima No. 471	Joseph	George & Martha Ann	Wroe	Taylor Street	Finisher	Thos. M. Horsfall Vicar.

In 1881 the family was living in Taylor Street, Batley and George was employed as a cloth finisher.

In 1901 he was living with his family at 7, Taylor Street, Batley, which included his parents and siblings, Fred 1884, John William 1892, George 1895 and Sarah Ann 1894.

On the 17th May 1902 Joseph married Mary Howgate at St. John the Baptist Church, Daw Green, Dewsbury. Elsie was born in 1902 followed by Harry 1904 who sadly died in early 1906, Jack 1907 and Frank 1909. Mary did have an illegitimate son Fred Howgate born 1900. Phylis 1911-1913, Hilda 1914-1919, Minnie 1915-1918 were his other children.



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~~1902~~ Marriage solemnized at St Johns Baptist Church in the Parish of St Johns Baptist Dewsbury in the County of York

No.	When Married	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
139	17th May ~~1902~~	Joseph Wroe	21	Bachelor	Dyer	9 Taylor St Batley	George Wroe	Raiser
		Mary Howgate	18	Spinster	-	Pitt Street	Henry Robinson	Dyer

Married in the Church of St Johns Baptist according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by ____ or after Banns by me, John Fallas Vicar

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Joseph Wroe, Mary Howgat. In the Presence of us, Sarah Jane Walker, Willie Robinson.

In 1911 they were living in a three roomed home at 2, Pitt Street, Dewsbury. A boarder, Leonard Farnhill was staying with them and Joseph was employed as a cloth fuller.

His father, George, died in December 1908 and Martha Ann moved her family to live at 28, Wellington Street, Batley.

Before enlisting Joseph worked as a dyer for Mark Oldroyd and Sons. He was a former member of the Gladstone Liberal Club, Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury.

Service Details

Joseph enlisted in Dewsbury in 1915 and went to France in August 1916.

A letter dated April 25th from an officer read*: - "I regret to inform you that your husband, seriously wounded yesterday, died early this morning. I have to offer you, on behalf of the officers and men of his company my heartfelt sympathy. Your husband was liked by everyone, and I personally had a great liking for him. He was so trustworthy that he carried all our important messages. He was riding a bicycle yesterday when a shell exploded, seriously wounding him.*

Everything that medical aid could do was done, but he passed away peacefully this morning. He is to be buried today in a very nice little church-yard. I feel I can say so very little to comfort you. Yours is an irreparable loss, but I will close with this little thought – "He is not dead but sleepeth".

At the time of his death his married brother, Corpl. Fred Wroe who lived in Mount Pleasant, was in training in Ireland. Previous to enlisting he worked for himself as a boot-maker repairer in Wellington Street, Batley.

Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He is remembered with Honour on Dewsbury and Batley War Memorials.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group